



APRIL TRIP TO McCOY RANCH AND VICINITY

The annual trip to the McCoy Ranch southeast of Livermore was enjoyed this year on April 27th by sixty-six members and guests. The weather was warm, clear and windless. Among the interesting discoveries of the trip were three active nests; a Bushtit's in which young were being fed, a Meadowlark's containing three eggs, and a Bullock's Oriole's nest on which the female was working as the male moved about nearby. As the group entered the ranch property a Green Heron flew up from the shrubs bordering the creek. Another, or the same one, was seen later higher up on the stream. After a picnic lunch under the Sycamore trees where the Lewis' Woodpeckers were constantly in sight, the group proceeded south to the second bridge where the Phainopepla are often seen. They were not seen on this trip. In this area, however, the Western Kingbird, the Western Bluebird, the Loggerhead Shrike, and the Lark Sparrow were added to the group's observations.

The following 48 species were seen: Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-skinned Hawk, Sparrow Hawk (Kestrel), California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Wrentit, House Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Western Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, white-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow.

—BETH C. SNYDER, *Leader and Historian*

APRIL TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND

Almost 40 members and guests enjoyed, after the heavy rains, an unusually sunny and warm day of birding at Bay Farm Island on Saturday, April 19. The highlight of the trip was a pair of Black Brant seen at close range on the outer shore. Although not unknown there, they are not common. We also had a very good look late in the afternoon at Knots, both standing and in flight. Caspian Terns and Forster's were out in great numbers in the frontage road area. Unfortunately, it was not the day

for Herons. We saw neither Common Egrets nor Great Blue Herons—but, luckily, did see one Snowy Egret.

The following 42 species were seen: Horned, Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; Snow Egret; Black Brant; Canvasback; Lesser Scaup; Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Clapper Rail; American Coot; Semipalmated Plover; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Knot; Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Long-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; American Avocet; California, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls; Forster's and Caspian Terns; Mourning Dove; Horned Lark; Robin; Water Pipit; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Savannah, White-crowned, and Song Sparrows.

—AILEEN PIERSON, *Leader and Historian*

MAY TRIP TO TOMALES BAY STATE PARK

About fifteen "listeners" showed up early on the cool, overcast morning of May 4,, for owling and birding by ear along the Jepson Trail in Tomales Bay State Park. The only owl which was heard for sure was the Pygmy Owl and it was rather faint. Saw-whet Owls, which had been so vociferous along the Jepson Trail during the winter and early spring months were not heard unless some of the dim and distant notes belonged to this species. Excellent views of two Barn Owls were had repeatedly from the cypresses at the RCA station on the Point Reyes Road. The multitudes of warblers, finches, nuthatches, and other songbirds began their chorus early and kept us busy until noon. The following 61 species were seen or heard: Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Gull, Forster's Tern, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Pygmy Owl, Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green, and Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Stellar's Jay, Common Raven, Common Crow, Chesnut-backed Chickadee, Common Bushtit, Pygmy Nut-hatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, House Wren, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

—ALAN CRAIG, *Leader & Historian*

MARCH TRIP TO MOSS LANDING

Heavy winds and rain the night before limited the attendance on this normally very popular trip to twelve persons, on Sunday, March 16. The skies threatened on Sunday but never broke, so those who stayed home were in for a disappointment. The main attraction was a side trip down to Monterey Harbor where, thanks to the excellent directions of Laidlaw Williams, a female King Eider was found loafing on a raft where it could be seen quite well with scopes.

The following 82 species were seen: Common Loon, Arctic Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, King Eider, Black Brant,

Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Scaup sp.?, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, White-tailed Kite, American Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mew Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, White-throated Swift, Allen's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Western Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Common Bushtit, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

—ALAN CRAIG, *Leader & Historian*

HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS—Facts, figures and details have not been forwarded to *The Gull* yet but in the meantime we wish to express, on behalf of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, profound thanks to Mrs. Suzanne Johnson, House & Garden Tour Chairman, and sincere appreciation to her assistants and everyone else who helped to make this large contribution to the Sanctuary Fund.—Ed.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Pamphlets, *Care & Feeding of Wild Birds* and *Rules to Becoming a Successful Foster Parent*, available Pacific Coast Office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Price 10c.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Dr. S. E. Pollman; from Lafayette, Miss Helen Searight; from Oakland, Mrs. Pat Brakefield, Mrs. Edward P. Benjamin, Miss Cynthia Grant; from San Leandro, Mr. & Mrs. Felix T. Povin.

—ROBERTA LONG, *Membership Chairman*

FIELD NOTES—On March 28 & 31 and April 6, Mr. John Ralph saw a Summer Tanager. It was in his backyard in Berkeley and it was feeding on wasps. It was an adult male and at one time he was able to get within six feet of it.

Mr. W. H. Kappler saw a Hooded Oriole in downtown Hayward, on B St., between First and the curved portion, recently. These birds like the fan palms that grow in that area.

JUNE MEETING

The 488th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held Thursday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Main Library in San Francisco. (Larkin St. at McAllister. Take No. 5 bus on Market St.)

Mr. Eugene Kridler, Wildlife Management Biologist of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge at Willows, California, will be the speaker. Colored slides will illustrate the role of these refuges in waterfowl management—with emphasis on the Pacific Flyway.

Note: A no-host dinner at the Whitcomb Hotel, 1251 Market St., near the Library, will precede the meeting. Six p.m. or earlier. Everyone welcome.

—BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

On Sunday, June 8, to the FARALLON ISLANDS on the Privateer 11. See full announcement in the March *Gull*. Fare is \$8.00. Send reservations to Harold G. Peterson. Nesting activities of California Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Gulls, Cormorants and other species should be seen on this trip.

On Sunday, June 15, to STINSON BEACH AND MT. TAMALPAIS. Bird migration is usually followed by housekeeping. This trip should offer interesting views of nests and young of some colorful species. Meet at Stinson Beach bus depot, at 9:40 a.m., Greyhound bus leaves San Francisco (7th Street) at 8:15 a.m. *Leader*, Carlyle Sather, Phone Plaza 6-0581.

On Saturday, June 28, to LANDS END AND GOLDEN GATE PARK, San Francisco. This is a revival of a trip that was popular in the past. Pigeon Guillemots on their nests and possibly with young, should be present at this time, on the cliffs and rocks at Lands End. Nesting activities of cormorants and gulls may, also, be seen on the rocks close to shore.

Meet at entrance to Sutro Heights Park, Point Lobos and 48th Avenue, 9 a.m. *Leader*, Florence Plymell, Phone Prospect 6-1208.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trip Chairman*

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. William M. Hume

Mrs. Frank Drake

Miss Evelyn Maino

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way
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